

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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## CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER SUMMER 2009 EXHIBITIONS Chinese Contemporary Art and Early Tribune Cartoons fill summer season



**Through August 30, 2009**

### **The Big World: Recent Art from China Exhibit Hall and Sidney R. Yates Gallery**

This timely exhibition, organized by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, focuses on art in mixed media by 22 artists living and working in China today. "The Big World" refers to the vast, almost unimaginable scale of contemporary Chinese art in the international art scene, but the title also alludes to a large and storied Shanghai amusement park. Various aspects of life in China now are analyzed in this selection of some fifty works by artists who range from emerging talent to fairly celebrated international artists. Curated by Gregory G. Knight, DCA Deputy Commissioner for Visual Art, and Tereza de Arruda of TA Art Projects, Berlin, with assistance from Chinablue Gallery, Beijing.

#### *Gallery Talks and Public Programs:*

*Thursday, June 25: 12:15 p.m.: Gallery Talk with Prof. Lau Chipang from Hong Kong*

*Thursday, July 23: 12:15 p.m.: Gallery Talk with curators Gregory G. Knight and Tereza de Arruda*

*Thursday, August 20: 12:15 p.m.: Gallery Talk with curator Gregory G. Knight*

**Through September 27, 2009**

### **The Cartoons of John T. McCutcheon: Chronicles of a Changing World Chicago Rooms**

Cartoonist John T. McCutcheon was such a sharp observer of basic human nature that people today still find aspects about themselves in his work, some of which was created over one hundred years ago. As an editorial cartoonist for the Chicago Record and Chicago Tribune newspapers between 1889 and 1946, his drawings chronicled a rapidly changing world. This exhibit demonstrates McCutcheon's talents as a perceptive artist, author, and social commentator through seldom-seen original ink drawings and representative examples of his published works.

#### *Gallery Talks:*

*Thursday, June 4, 12:15 p.m.: Gallery Talk*

*Thursday, July 9, 12:15 p.m.: Gallery Talk*



### **Theolia Norwood: Urban Pastoral**

**June 2 – July 13, 2009**

#### **Project Onward Gallery**

Theolia (Ted) Norwood creates atmospheric landscapes reminiscent both of the early Impressionists and of the Romantic painters: scenes of forests, wetlands, dramatic rock formations, and nature at its most dramatic. But Norwood's compositions, in pastel, charcoal, or washes of color, appear on flattened cardboard boxes, discarded shipping containers, and cartons. The materials he employs are the stuff of trash; the vision he sets down upon them is the stuff of fantasy and fine art. "Urban Pastoral" embraces the contradiction with a selection of drawings and paintings created by the artist at the Project Onward studio. Located in the Chicago Cultural Center, Project Onward is the Department of Cultural Affairs studio program for artists with special needs. The program supplies studio space, art supplies, and professional guidance to over 30 adult artists living with mental and developmental disabilities.



**Tom Torluemke: After-Glow**  
**July 3 – September 27, 2009**  
**Michigan Avenue Galleries**

Tom Torluemke is a well-known, Chicago-area artist who has often involved himself in educational projects and a variety of public art practices. Primarily, though, he paints and works on paper in collage and watercolor, as well as creating some site-specific installations. For this exhibition, Torluemke pursues his gallery work by showing mainly figurative and semi-abstract collages and watercolors with socio-political content guided by autobiographical experiences.

*Opening Reception: Friday, July 10, 6-8 p.m.*

*Gallery Talk with the artist: Thursday, July 16, 12:15 p.m.*

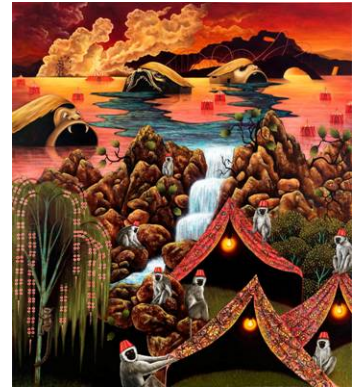
Stateless: New Work by Nicole Gordon

**July 11 – October 4, 2009**  
**Michigan Avenue Galleries**

In two large paintings Chicago-based artist Nicole Gordon employs a lush commingling of diverse stylistic references from Flemish artists such as Pieter Bruegel to Persian miniatures to create her own whacky vision of the clash between urban civilization and the natural world. In her paintings, onlooking monkeys gaze dreamily or stare directly at us, perhaps assessing our complicity in this. A centrally placed sculptural element completes this “unnatural” tableau.

*Opening Reception: Friday, July 10, 6-8 p.m.*

*Gallery Talk with the artist: Thursday, August 6, 12:15 p.m.*



**Twisted Ambience: An Installation by**  
**Nenne Okore**

**July 11 – October 4, 2009**  
**Michigan Avenue Galleries**

Although based in Chicago, Okore creates work that is infused with her childhood memories of Nigeria. In particular, her installation employs a mixture of common urban objects such as newspaper, rope and twigs which remind her of the struggles of poor Africans who by necessity recycle everything. Her work has an uncanny ability to create a pleasing harmony from the chaos of urban detritus and natural elements while maintaining a very personal sense of content.

*Opening Reception: Friday, July 10, 6-8 p.m.*

*Gallery Talk with the artist: Thursday, September 10, 12:15 p.m.*

*Dance Program by Hedwig Dances: September 24, 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.*

**CONTINUING EXHIBITIONS FROM SPRING**

**Articles of Faith: Photographs by Dave Jordano**

**Through June 28, 2009**

**Michigan Avenue Galleries**

This exhibition presents images from Dave Jordano's recent book documenting African-American storefront churches in Chicago. The color photographs investigate the sense of belonging and place, which influence community development and help preserve long-standing traditions of cultural heritage and religious belief. Formally, Jordano's photographs capture the vernacular architecture, inside and out, of simple yet familiar out-of-the-way places of worship. Jordano lives and teaches in Chicago.

**The Sorrows of Swans: Paintings by Eleanor Spiess-Ferris**

**Through July 5, 2009**

**Michigan Avenue Galleries**

For years this Chicago-based artist has been honing her distinctive variant of surrealist painting, creating eerie landscapes that meld lush romanticism with edgy content and challenging sexual nuance. This new series at times takes on an apocalyptic aspect, reflecting the current state of the world.

***Look at me: Photographs from Mexico City by Jed Fielding***  
**Through July 5, 2009**  
**Michigan Avenue Galleries**

In these stark and powerful portraits of blind children in Mexico City, Jed Fielding, a Chicago-based photographer, finds an aesthetic that would have us question our very notions of beauty, as well as our concepts of vision and the role of spectator. These poignant photographs are the result of a close and intimate collaboration with children at schools for the blind whose instructions were often as simple as "look at me."

## ONGOING EXHIBITIONS

### **Project Onward Gallery**

Located in the Chicago Cultural Center, Project Onward is the Department of Cultural Affairs' studio program for artists with special needs. The program supplies studio space, art supplies, and professional guidance to over 30 adult artists living with mental and developmental disabilities. The staff helps exhibit, promote, and sell the artists' works as a means to provide earned income and a sense of personal achievement, as well as to integrate the artists into the wider arts community. Within Project Onward's studio space is the Jewel Box Gallery, where original artwork and Project Onward merchandise are available for purchase. The Project Onward Studio and Gallery are located on the first floor of the Chicago Cultural Center, and are open to visitors daily, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### **Chicago Landmarks Before the Lens**

Landmark Chicago Gallery

Presented by the Commission of Chicago Landmarks, this exhibition features 72 black and white photographs of 24 landmarks and historic districts by Richard Nickel, Barbara Crane, Bob Thall, and Stephen Beal.

### **Heraldic Emblems I – IV, by Deborah Boardman**

**G.A.R. Hall**

Boardman's four poured glass "shields" were inspired by the military history of the Grand Army of the Republic Hall decor, with a site-specific intent in their making and inspiration. Each heraldic emblem is a different color of glass and seems to float in their historic cases. Presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs.

The Chicago Cultural Center is located at 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago. Viewing hours for exhibitions are Mondays through Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Fridays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Chicago Cultural Center is closed on holidays. Admission to Chicago Cultural Center exhibitions is free.

Exhibitions and related educational programming presented by the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs at the Chicago Cultural Center are partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. Transportation support is provided by United Airlines, the Official Airline of the Chicago Cultural Center. Lawry's the Prime Rib is the restaurant sponsor of Chicago Cultural Center exhibitions.

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Note to Press: Electronic Images Available Upon Request

Image Credits for above:

**Jin Shi**, *Retail Business – Karaoke*, 2009, mixed media installation. Courtesy of the artist.

**John T. McCutcheon**, *A Self-Portrait*

**Theolia Norwood**, *Winding Road*, 2009, pastel, mixed media on cardboard.

**Tom Torluemke**, *Corn Rows*, 2001, watercolor on paper. Courtesy of the artist.

**Nicole Gordon**, *Goodbye Cruel World, I'm Off to Join the Circus*, 2008, oil on canvas. Courtesy of the artist.

**Nnenna Okore**, Detail from *Twisted Ambience*, 2009, newspaper. Courtesy of the artist.